

WAREHAM,

March, 1914.

To the Wareham Town Council,
Gentlemen,

Dorset

I have the honour to submit my Annual
Report for the year ending December 31st, 1913.

AREA.—The area comprises 247 acres.

POPULATION.—At the last Census the population was 2,002.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.—The Town stands on a slight eminence above the flats, through which run the River Frome to the South and the River Puddle to the North. The Town is surrounded on three sides by its earthen walls. The soil is of a sandy nature.

CLIMATE.—The climate is mild, the prevailing wind being S.W.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—CHIEF OCCUPATIONS.—The social conditions satisfactory. The chief occupations are at the Clay Works and Pottery, and agricultural.

POOR LAW.—GRATUITOUS RELIEF.—The Poor Law relief is decreasing, but find the gratuitous relief is increasing.

WATER SUPPLY.—Most satisfactory, both in quality and quantity.

RIVERS.—STREAMS.—A certain amount of pollution takes place, but is gradually lessening.

SEWAGE.—DRAINAGE.—We have no regular system of drainage except by cesspools and earth closets. The latter are yearly increasing. I still strongly advocate a system of night collection, as so many of the Inhabitants have no gardens in which to bury the night soil. The refuse cart is still without a lid, the consequence being that in windy weather the refuse is blown about.

CLOSETS.—As mentioned above.

SCAVENGING.—A Scavenger is employed by the Corporation. The cesspools are emptied by the tenants. We have no destructor.

SANITARY INSPECTION.—Three cases of overcrowding have been reported. One case, at Mount Pleasant, has been abated. The second case is waiting for larger cottage. The third case, in Mill Lane, is where one sister is giving shelter to another sister and her family, who were turned out of a house in New Street that had been condemned, and owing to being very bad tenants, they have been unable to get another cottage.

Number of inspections as to nuisances	...	30
Number of informal notices served	...	18
Number „ „ „ complied with	...	18

No Statutory notice has been served.

The pig-styes in the Town are satisfactory, except in three cases where the pigs were not the required distance from dwelling-houses. Notices were served and complied with.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—

Number of privies with vault fixed receptacles	175
Number of movable buckets	...
Number of fresh-water flushed closets	...

Three new closets have been erected, and four brick privies converted into bucket closets.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary condition and water supply most satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY.—No tuberculous milk has come under my notice.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Certain improvements are necessary, which I hope will be carried out at once. The cowsheds also require more attention. There are 14 cowsheds and 2 dairymen, but no milkshops.

BAKEHOUSES.—Most satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The condition has improved. There is a possibility of the Town being supplied with a public slaughter-house.

LODGING-HOUSE.—We have only one, which is satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION.—Formal samples were taken of butter (2), cream (1), cheese (2), coffee (1), pepper (2). One sample of milk was found to be adulterated.

HOUSING.—I am pleased to say twelve new cottages have been erected in Wareham during the last year, and the Agent to the Lord of the Manor informs me they are also about to erect new cottages in the spring. All the present new cottages are the result of private enterprise. These will supply a long-felt want, several of the cottages in the Town being very old, and a few not worth repairing. These, I am given to understand, are to be pulled down on the completion of the new cottages to be erected by the Lord of the Manor.

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|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses inspected under Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 90 |
| (2) Number of such dwelling-houses which were considered to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation | ... | | | | 19 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which representations were made to Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders | ... | | | | 19 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made by the Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| (6) Number of dwelling-houses which, after the making of closing orders, were made fit for habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (7) General character of the defects found to exist in the dwelling-houses inspected, mostly old age, these cottages having been erected many years. | | | | | |

INFANT MORTALITY.—Eight deaths occurred under this heading.

2	between 1 and 2 weeks.
2	„ 3 and 4 weeks.
4	under 4 weeks.

WORKSHOPS.—Seven are on the register, and are found to be satisfactory.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.—The staff comprises M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector, the latter working to some extent in conjunction with the M.O.H.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.—No specimens have been examined this year.

CHEMICAL WORK.—This work is undertaken by myself, but certain analyses sent away.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—I have received 7 notifications, viz.: 4 pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 erysipelas, 1 enteric fever. All these houses are visited by me, and every precaution is taken to prevent the spread of disease. Disinfection is carried out by burning formaline lamp, and whitewashing with carbolic whitewash.

OTHER DISEASES.—The Town has been exceptionally free from illness this year.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The number of deaths, including those at the Workhouse, was 36, of which 7 were non-residents and 1 was a resident not registered in the district, giving a death rate of 15 per 1,000. Of these deaths,

7	were due to heart disease.
4	„ congenital debility and malformation, including premature birth.
2	„ pneumonia.
2	„ bronchitis.
2	„ diarrhoea.
1	„ tubercular.
1	„ cancer.
10	„ other defined diseases.

The number of births was 39, exactly the same as last year, giving a birth rate of 19.5 per 1,000.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

KILCOURSIE J. COURTENAY,

Medical Officer of Health.